

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: APRA EXTENDS ITS HAND TO PERUVIAN MILITARY

1. SUMMARY: ENCOURAGED BY THE AUGUST 29 CHANGE OF COMMAND, APRA USED THE OCCASION OF ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY ON SEPTEMBER 20 TO DECLARE ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THE OFFER WAS NOTED BY THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS AND DENIGRATED BY THE LEFT. END SUMMARY.

2. PERU'S APRISTA POLITICAL PARTY ISSUED A 45TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNIQUE SEPTEMBER 19 WHICH DESCRIBED THE "DECLARATION OF TACNA" AND FIRST ACTS OF MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT AS "OPENING A NEW AND POSITIVE PHASE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE CANCELLATION OF THE DEPORTATIONS - WHICH WE ARE HOPING MAY BE FOLLOWED BY LIBERTY FOR ALL PERSONS PERSECUTED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AND THE DECLARATION OF RESPECT FOR FREE EXPRESSION AND IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM - ARE IMPORTANT STEPS WHICH OUR PARTY HAS SUPPORTED."

3. THE STATEMENT SAID APRA HAD SUPPORTED FROM THE OUTSET THE REFORMS UNDERTAKEN BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND CLAIMED THAT APRA HAD LONG STRUGGLED TO ELIMINATE THE INFLUENCE IN PERUVIAN AFFAIRS OF THE "OLD ORDER" OF
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THE OLIGARCHY AND IMPERIALISM. EARLIER MILITARY REGIMES IN CON-

JUNCTION WITH THE OLIGARCHY HAD PREVENTED REFORMS LONG ENCOMPASSED
IN THE APRA PROGRAM.

4. APRA LEADER HAYA DE LA TORRE, IN A MAJOR SPEECH TO PARTY
FAITHFUL AT APRA HEADQUARTERS IN DOWNTOWN LIMA SEPTEMBER 19,
DISCUSSED POINTS IN PARTY COMMUNIQUE NOTING THAT APRA WAS NOT
HOSTILE TOWARD THE PERUVIAN MILITARY AND IS DISPOSED TO COLLAB-
ORATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTIES
FACING IT. ELSEWHERE IN HIS NEARLY HOUR-LONG SPEECH HE SAID
THE GOP'S CALLS FOR UNITY AND GREATER NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY WERE
FULLY ENDORSED BY APRA. HAYA, HOWEVER, QUALIFIED APRA SUPPORT FOR
THE REVOLUTION WITH CAVEAT THAT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE NATURAL EX-
PRESSION OF THE PEOPLE AND CANNOT BE REPLACED WITH CORPORATIST OR
BUREAUCRATIC SCHEMES. HAYA CALLED FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN
WHICH APRA WOULD LIKE TO COMPETE. DISCUSSING GOP ECONOMIC MODELS,
HAYA STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT APRA OPPOSED SOCIAL PROPERTY. HE
CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE FULL AUTONOMY FOR COOPERA-
TIVES, TRADE UNIONS AND LABOR COMMUNITIES AND TO REFRAIN FROM
ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THESE ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUREAUCRATIC SCHEMES
A REFERENCE TO UNSPECIFIED (GOP SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS).

5. COMMENT: APRA CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY HOPE MORALES
BERMUDEZ' ASSUMPTION OF POWER WILL MARK A POSITIVE TURNING TOWARD
GREATER CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING WITH POLITICAL
PARTIES PLAYING A ROLE. EVEN BEFORE VELASCO'S REMOVAL FROM THE
PRESIDENCY, APRA HAD MADE POSITIVE SIGNALS TOWARD THE MILITARY,
BUT ALL EARLIER FEELERS WERE REJECTED BY GOP-CONTROLLED MEDIA IN
PERU. BY CONTRAST, MUCH OF THE PRESS GAVE STRAIGHTFORWARD IF
MODEST COVERAGE OF HAYA'S SEPTEMBER 19 SPEECH AND THE APRA COM-
MUNIQUE. LEFTIST DAILY EXPRESO IGNORED APRA RALLY, RAN ANTI-APRA
STORIES IN COMPETITION WITH IT, AND THEN EDITORIALIZED AGAINST
APRA'S OLIVE BRANCH TOWARD THE MILITARY. GOP HAS MADE NO PUBLIC
STATEMENT TO DATE RE. APRA OFFER TO COLLABORATE.
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